

2007 CITY PROPERTY TAXES

COUNCIL APPROVES GENERAL FUND BUDGET

IN AN EFFORT TO MAINTAIN QUALITY services at an affordable price, the City Council adopted a General Fund Budget for 2007 of \$49,690,289, an increase that has averaged 3.2 percent per year since 2002.

The City Council approved a General Fund tax levy for 2007 of \$33,720,446. General Fund property taxes have had an average annual increase of 3.76 percent over the past 15 years, from \$20 million in 1992 to \$33.7 million in 2007. In recent years, a state budget deficit affected aid payments to cities. Bloomington did not receive \$6.2 million in market value credit between 2003 and 2007.

Based on the 2007 tax levy, the City’s portion of property taxes – approximately 34 percent – will increase from \$60.56 to \$62.66 per month for the owner of a median-priced, single-family home with a 2006 market value of \$244,800. The median-valued, single-family home increased 5.9 percent in 2006 – a \$13,600 appreciation in asset value of the investment in the home.

Conservative increase

“The City’s strong financial position and conservative spending pattern have helped keep tax increases low,” explained Lori Economy-Scholler, Bloomington Chief Financial Officer. “This is evidenced by the City’s achievement of the highest bond ratings from Standard and Poor’s, Moody’s and Fitch credit rating agencies.”

Home value increases

The median-valued home’s market value has increased at an annual rate of 8.7 percent over the past 10 years, while taxes on that home increased 3.8 percent annually for the same period.

The relative strength of the residential market, along with the impacts from the 2001 tax reform, shifted a greater share of the tax burden from commercial/ industrial and apartment properties to single-family residential properties over the past several years. A slowing residential market, coupled with strengthening commercial/industrial markets and significant new development, may lead to a reversal of this trend and a greater tax burden shift back to commercial/industrial properties.

Responsible budgeting

The City has an ongoing commitment to provide cost-effective services while minimizing increases. Public works, police and fire services account for about 75 percent of the

MONTHLY COST FOR CITY SERVICES FOR MEDIAN-VALUED, SINGLE-FAMILY HOME

Service type*	2006	2007
Police	\$19.18	\$20.22
Public Works	15.10	17.26
Community Services	8.56	8.85
Debt and capital	4.73	5.40
Fire	4.93	3.62
Community Development	3.16	3.60
Technical Services	2.51	2.54
Strategic Priorities	2.33	1.17
Monthly total for City services	\$60.50	\$62.66
Median home value	\$231,200	\$244,800

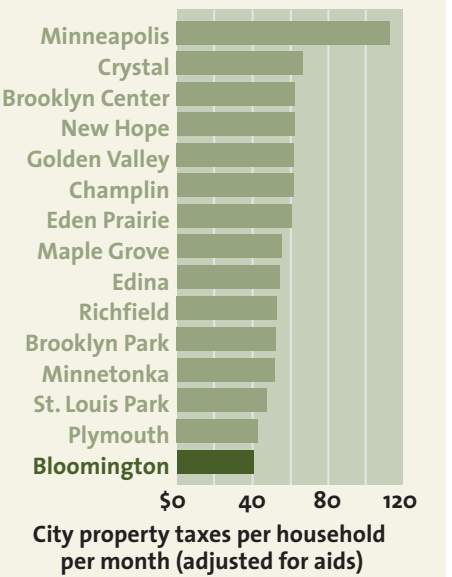
*Revised for final levy.

monthly services for which homeowners pay. *See chart above.*

From 1995 through 2002, utility fees remained unchanged. For 2007, utility fees will increase \$1.81, or 5.3 percent per month, for an annual average increase of 2.5 percent since 1995.

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD COST OF SERVICES IN 2006 FOR 15 HENNEPIN COUNTY CITIES

In a 2006 comparison of 15 communities in Hennepin County with more than 20,000 residents, the average household cost of services in terms of property taxes and property tax aids (when adjusted for Fiscal Disparities) showed Bloomington ranking lowest, with the average household paying \$40.03 per month in property taxes to the City. (The comparison was based on almost 38,000 Bloomington households, including single-family homes, apartments and condominiums.)



NEW PARKING ORDINANCE

REVISED CITYWIDE STANDARDS

IN DECEMBER, THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPTED an ordinance updating Bloomington’s parking standards to reflect the current and future needs of the city. For more information about the requirements described below, call Planning at 952-563-8920 or visit the City’s Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: parking standards. To report nuisance ordinance violations, call 952-563-8934.



VEHICLE PARKING

1 Vehicles must be parked in the garage, on the driveway or on areas with an approved parking surface such as concrete or asphalt. In certain circumstances, RVs may be stored in the back or side yard.

2 Number of vehicles owned by the residents and parked outside the garage or on the street may not exceed four. This does not include vehicles belonging to visitors.

3 Unlicensed or inoperable vehicles must be stored in a garage or be fully screened from view.

4 Nonresidential vehicles and vehicles longer than 22 feet and/or higher than seven feet six inches may not park in residential areas. However, these vehicles may be parked in the driveway, or in the street where allowed, when rendering a service.

LONG-TERM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR JAMES TRUAX RETIRES

AFTER MORE THAN 36 YEARS OF service with the City, Community



Services Director James Truax retired in January. Truax began his career as

Bloomington’s Health and Social Services Coordinator in 1970. Promoted to Community Services Director in 1974, Truax headed the Communications, Human Services, Parks and Recreation and Public Health divisions, along with the City’s recreational facilities.

Under his leadership, several million dollars in state and regional funding was secured for health and human services programs and to assist with park developments, improvements and acquisitions. Major park projects included Bush Lake Beach renovation in 1996 and Normandale Lake Bandshell in 2001. Other notable accomplishments were Dred Scott and Kelly Playfields, Bloomington Family Aquatic Center, the Central Park and Nine Mile Creek trail system, Galaxy Youth Center and Bloomington Center for the Arts.

Bloomington became a leader in human rights and accessibility on Truax’s watch. Long before federal regulations, the City implemented its own guidelines to ensure people with disabilities had equal access to buildings and services. In 1975, the Architectural Barriers Removal Program was created to give grants to local businesses for accessible entrance ramps and to make playgrounds accessible to all children.

With his encouragement, the City played an instrumental role in supporting Bloomington’s arts programs. This included funding and providing facilities such as the Center for the Arts, home to the Bloomington Fine Arts Council’s eight arts organizations.

Truax said he is proud to have been a part of what Community Services has accomplished over the years.

“The success of quality programs and services has been due to the staff and volunteers who run them,” Truax said. “Human Services has made the community sensitive to human rights and disability issues; our golf courses, ice garden and parks and recreation programs are top drawer; we have one of the best communications divisions in the metro area; and public health, which also serves Edina and Richfield, has had a significant impact in all of southern Hennepin County.”

Diann Kirby began as Bloomington’s Community Services Director on January 20.